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FEAR CITY PRESENTS
THUMPER
EPISODE ONE: THE ORIGIN STORY
BY FORMER ROCKSTAR GAMES SENIOR ARTIST STEPHEN BLISS

FEAR CITY PRESENTS

THUMPER

EPISODE ONE: THE ORIGIN STORY

STORY: STEPHEN BLISS AND MALCOLM WONG

ART: STEPHEN BLISS AND ALESSIA DE SIO

COVER ART: STEPHEN BLISS

EDITOR: ANDREA LORENZO MOLINARI

PRODUCTION: SEAN CALLAHAN

SCOUT COMICS

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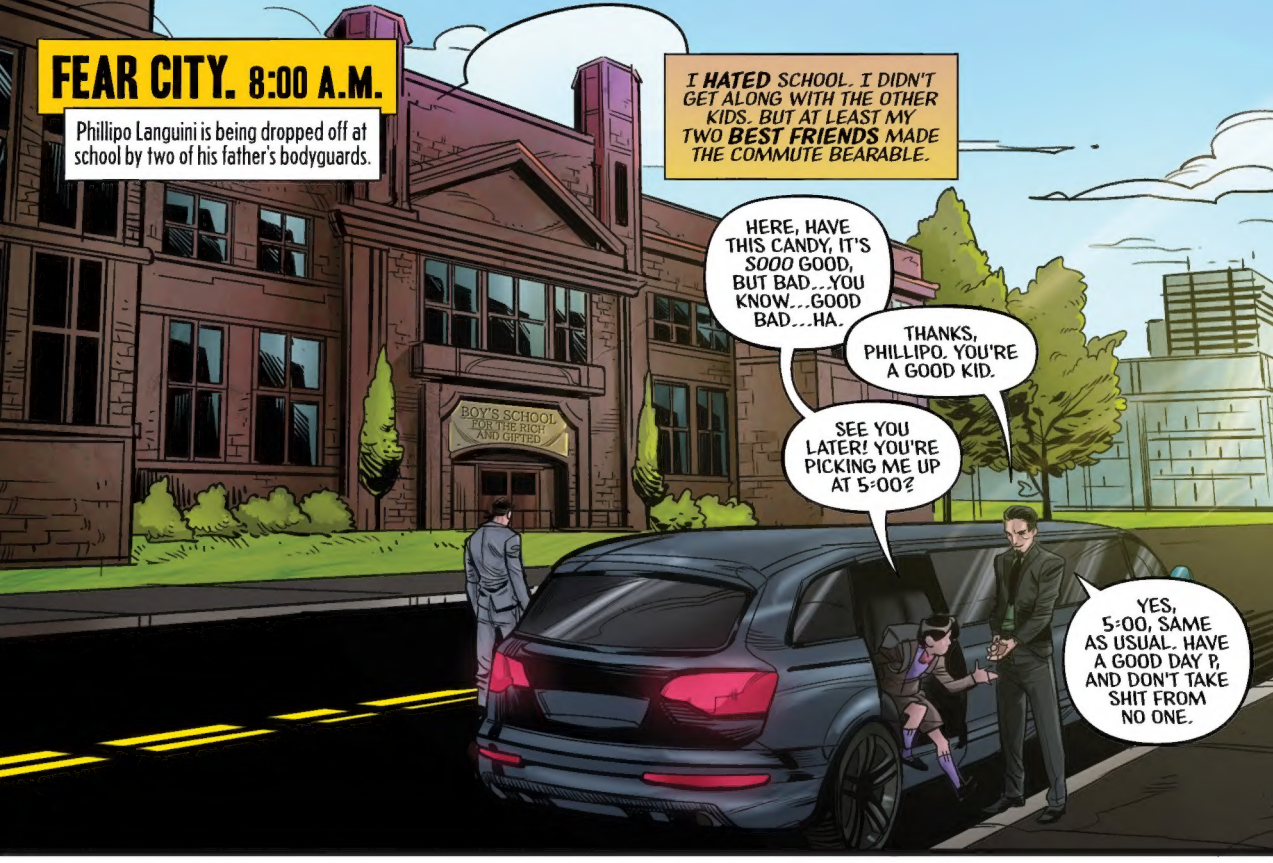

FEAR CITY. 8:00 A.M.
Phillipo Languini is being dropped off at school by two of his father's bodyguards.
I HATED SCHOOL. I DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH THE OTHER KIDS. BUT AT LEAST MY TWO BEST FRIENDS MADE THE COMMUTE BEARABLE.
BOY'S SCHOOL FOR THE RICH AND GIFTED
HERE, HAVE THIS CANDY, IT'S SOOO GOOD, BUT BAD...YOU KNOW...GOOD BAD...HA.
THANKS, PHILLIPO. YOU'RE A GOOD KID.
SEE YOU LATER! YOU'RE PICKING ME UP AT 5:00?
YES, 5:00, SAME AS USUAL. HAVE A GOOD DAY P, AND DON'T TAKE SHIT FROM NO ONE.

I KNOW WHAT A BULLET SOUNDS LIKE FROM VIDEO GAMES AND MOVIES, BUT IN REAL LIFE THE SOUND IS TERRIFYING.
ZZZZZZ
THWACK

ZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZ
ZZZZZZ
ZZZZ
KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN, PHILLIPO!
WHAT THE--? IS IT THE CONTIS?
JOEY! JOEY'S DOWN. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH JOEY?
THERE'S BLOOD!
CAN YOU CHECK HIM?

I KNEW HOW TO FEEL FOR A PULSE OVER THE CAROTID ARTERY FROM MOVIES. IT ALL FELT SO UNREAL...
I CAN'T FEEL A PULSE, BISON!
CHECK AGAIN!
JOEY IS DOWN! THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO, MAYBE THREE. I DON'T KNOW. THEY GOTTA BE CONTI SOLDATO!
BACKUP WILL BE THERE IN TEN MINUTES. CAN YOU HOLD OUT?
FUCK! WE'VE GOT TEN SECONDS BEFORE WE'RE DEAD!!

OUT OF THE CAR!
RUN!!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

GAH!
SMAKK

CONTI WIRETAP
Moving in, driver down.
KA-BLAM

AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT, BUT WHEN I LOOK BACK, HELINSKI WAS ON THE SCENE WAY TOO FAST. IT WAS A GAMBIT TO GET CLOSE TO MY DAD.
KA-CHUNK
I GOT A 10-33 AT THE BOY'S SCHOOL FOR THE RICH AND GIFTED. SHOTS FIRED, ONE CIVILIAN DOWN. REQUEST BACKUP.
KA-BLAM
KA-CHUNK
KA-BLAM
KA-CHUNK
I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER.
THE DRIVER WAS DEAD, AND SIX MONTHS LATER BISON STAMPT WAS KILLED AS WELL. UNSURPRISINGLY, HIS MURDER WAS NEVER SOLVED.
DID THAT INCIDENT WARP MY ADOLESCENT LIFE AND PUT ME ON A PATH OF NO RETURN?

FIVE YEARS EARLIER.
In the hallowed hallways of Waterworth Boarding School...
LOOK AT THE BABY WITH THE BUNNY, HOW CUTE! HOW ABOUT I CUT BUNNY UP AND THROW IT IN THE RIVER?!
OR DID IT START IN SECOND GRADE?
HEY! LEAVE HER ALONE!
KIT WAS THE SWEETEST THING I HAD EVER SEEN.
WHUMP
HEY!
AND THAT WAS BEFORE SHE WON MY HEART.

WHACK
THUMP
KLUMP
OUR BLOOD MIXED ON THE HALLWAY FLOOR. AND THEN INTO THUMPER...
WAKE UP, KIT, PLEASE WAKE UP.
KIT LAY IN A COMA. THE DOCTOR SAID SHE COULD COME OUT OF IT AT ANY TIME. BUT SHE DIDN'T...
I PRAYED TO EVERY GOD I COULD RESEARCH, BUT KIT'S CONDITION DIDN'T CHANGE.
HOLY BIBLE
BOOK OF THE DEAD
THE BOOK OF LIES
MY DREAMS DID, THOUGH, RADICALLY...
NON-LINEAR DREAMS OF TORTURE, EXECUTION, AND BLOOD SACRIFICE FILLED MY BROKEN NIGHTS. MUM'S SLEEPING PILLS ONLY MADE THEM WORSE, BRINGING OUT DEMON SPIRIT ANIMALS.

THEN I STARTED TO HEAR A VOICE: "WEAR ME, PUT ON THE MASK, FEEL THE POWER OF A THOUSAND BURNING WITCHES SCREAMING FOR REVENGE, REVENGE AGAINST THE PATRIARCH..."
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND UNTIL...
AT THAT MOMENT, AFTER YEARS OF TORMENT, THE DREAMS AND VOICES ABATED. BLESSED RELIEF...
EIGHT YEARS LATER. 7:00 P.M.
Phillipo's bedroom.
"SOMEDAY, A REAL RAIN WILL COME AND WASH ALL THIS SCUM OFF THE STREETS..."
MY PIT BULL, BANZAI, DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN I WEAR THE THUMPER MASK. HE KNOWS THAT SOMETHING INSIDE ME CHANGES.
GRRRRRRRRRRRR
I'M THE WORLD'S WORST-LOOKING SUPER HERO VIGILANTE: A WHITE RABBIT? BUT I'M STRONGER, SMARTER, AND MORE RUTHLESS WHEN I WEAR THE MASK.

AND IT FREAKS OUT THE SCUM.
TURNS OUT...I AM THE RAIN.
15 MINUTE
CINEMA
PEEPHOLES
CRIME SQUARE. 9:00 P.M.

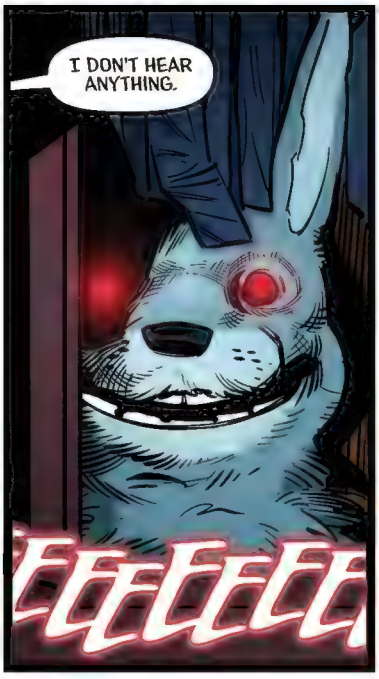
THE MASK HAS NEEDS. IT FEEDS ON VIOLENCE. THE CRAVING, HOW CAN I EXPLAIN HOW TORTUOUSLY SWEET THE PROMISE OF FULFILLMENT CAN BE?

BUT WHEN I MAKE A RIGHTEOUS KILL...
THE FIRST TIME WAS THE MOST INTENSE, THE FEELING OF INVINCIBILITY WAS PLEASURE EXPLODING THROUGH MY BODY, FILLING ME TO BURSTING.

THEN BOOOM! I CAN OUTSMART AND OUTFIGHT ANYONE, AND THE INTENSE CRAVING TO KILL IS SATED...
...BUT THE HUNGER ALWAYS RETURNS, AND THUMPER IS THERE AGAIN, WAITING TO HELP ME VENT OUR RAGE.

DING DONG
OH, MY GOD! KIT?!
IT'S REALLY ME, PHILLIPO.
IT WAS A MIRACLE, BUT...
YOU'RE SO... LITTLE.
WHERE'S DOLCIE?
DOLCIE?
MY RABBIT. I NEED TO HAVE MY RABBIT.
DOLCIE?

DO YOU HEAR THAT? WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
EEEEEEEE


I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING.
EEEEEEEE

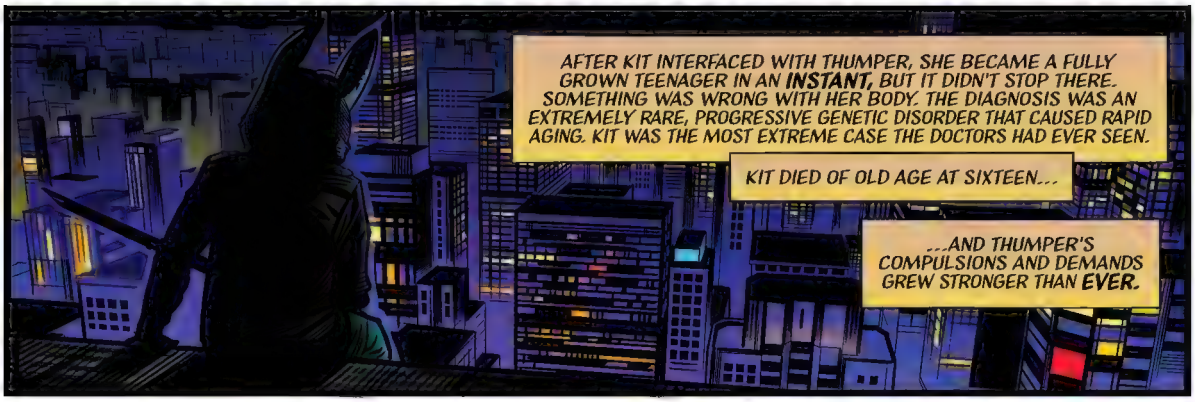
THAT HUMMING NOISE.
HOW CAN YOU STILL BE EIGHT YEARS OLD?
EEEEEEE

KIT SENSED THAT WE WERE EXPERIENCING SOME KIND OF A THREE-WAY PSYCHIC CONNECTION WITH THUMPER, AND IT WAS DISTRESSING.
EEEEEEEEEE

I COULDN'T GIVE UP THUMPER. I COULDN'T RETURN THUMPER TO KIT. HOW COULD I GO BACK TO BEING JUST ME? HOW COULD I GIVE UP MY FIGHT?
EEEEEEE

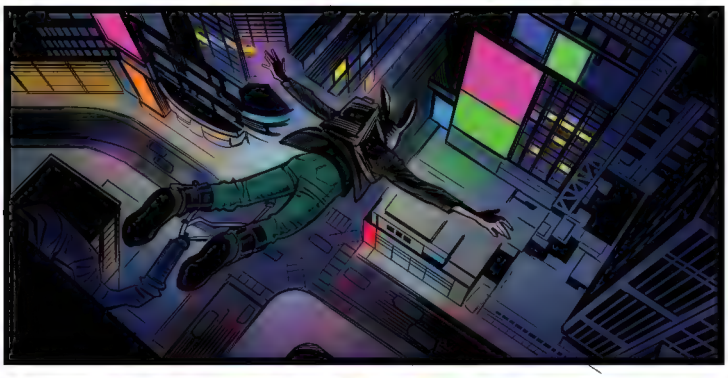
DOLCIE! BUT IT'S JUST HER HEAD! WHERE'S HER BODY, PHILLIPO?
DOLCIE, WHAT HAPPENED?!
ZZZ-ZZT
KIT, THAT'S NOT DOLCIE ANYMORE!
THAT'S THUMPER!
ZZZ-ZZT
ZZZ-ZZT
ZZZ-ZZT

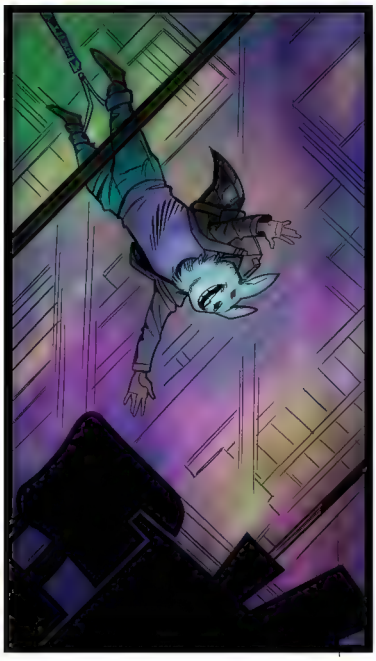
OH, PHILLIPO... WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I'M SO CONFUSED.
I WOKE UP, AND EVERYTHING'S SO DIFFERENT. SO MUCH HAS *CHANGED.* I WAS SMALL. NOW WE'RE BIG...


AFTER KIT INTERFACED WITH THUMPER, SHE BECAME A FULLY GROWN TEENAGER IN AN INSTANT, BUT IT DIDN'T STOP THERE. SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH HER BODY. THE DIAGNOSIS WAS AN EXTREMELY RARE, PROGRESSIVE GENETIC DISORDER THAT CAUSED RAPID AGING. KIT WAS THE MOST EXTREME CASE THE DOCTORS HAD EVER SEEN.
KIT DIED OF OLD AGE AT SIXTEEN...
...AND THUMPER'S COMPULSIONS AND DEMANDS GREW STRONGER THAN EVER.

IT'S THAT FUCKING RABBIT, THUMPER!
THERE'S BLOOD ON THAT SWORD, THUMPER! DID YOU KILL SOMEONE? DID YOU? WHO DID YOU KILL?
PUT THE SWORD DOWN, AND COME AWAY FROM THE LEDGE! SLOW AND EASY.

AS YOU WISH...



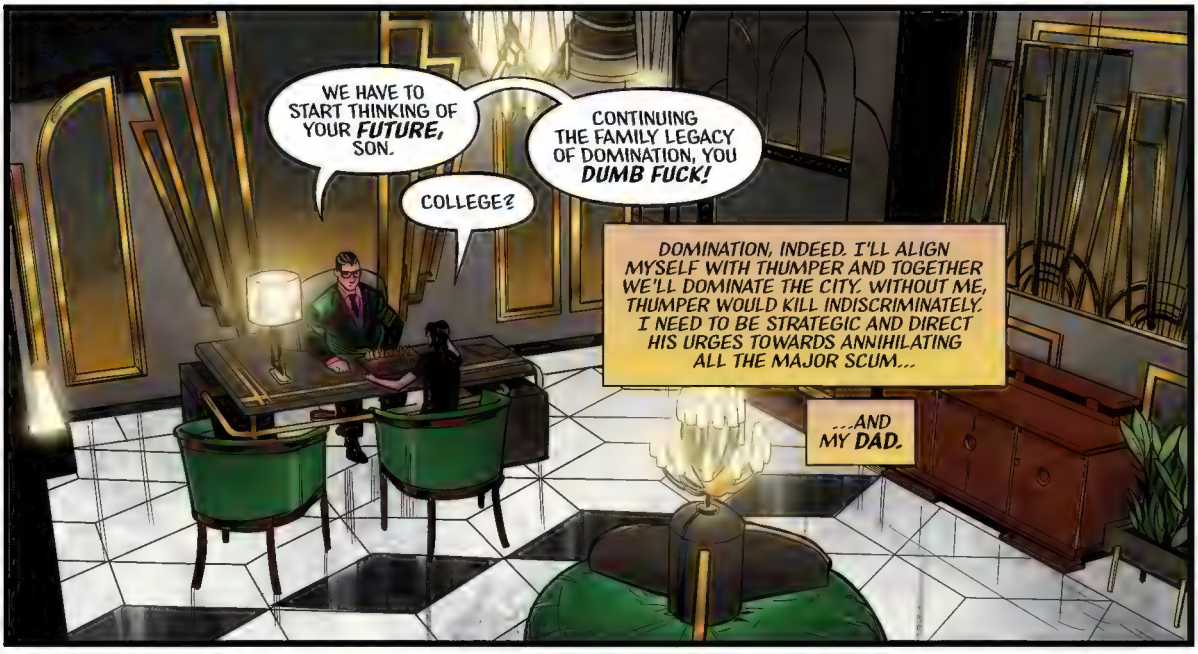


KREESHH

CLEAR THE BUILDING! EVERYONE OUT!
THAT MEANS YOU TOO, KID. THERE'S A KILLER ON THE ROOF.

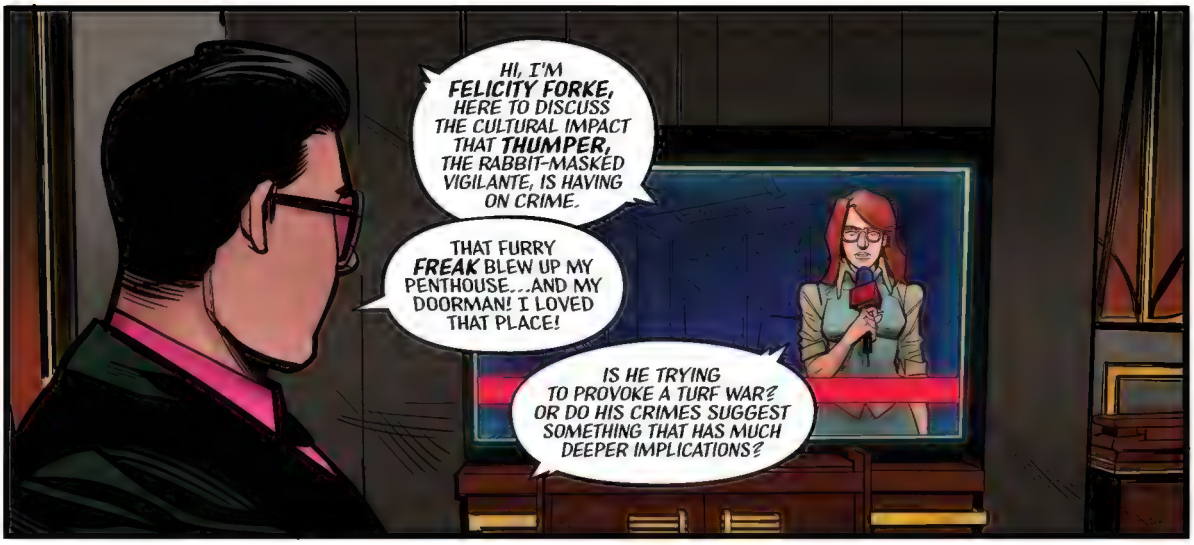
POLICE

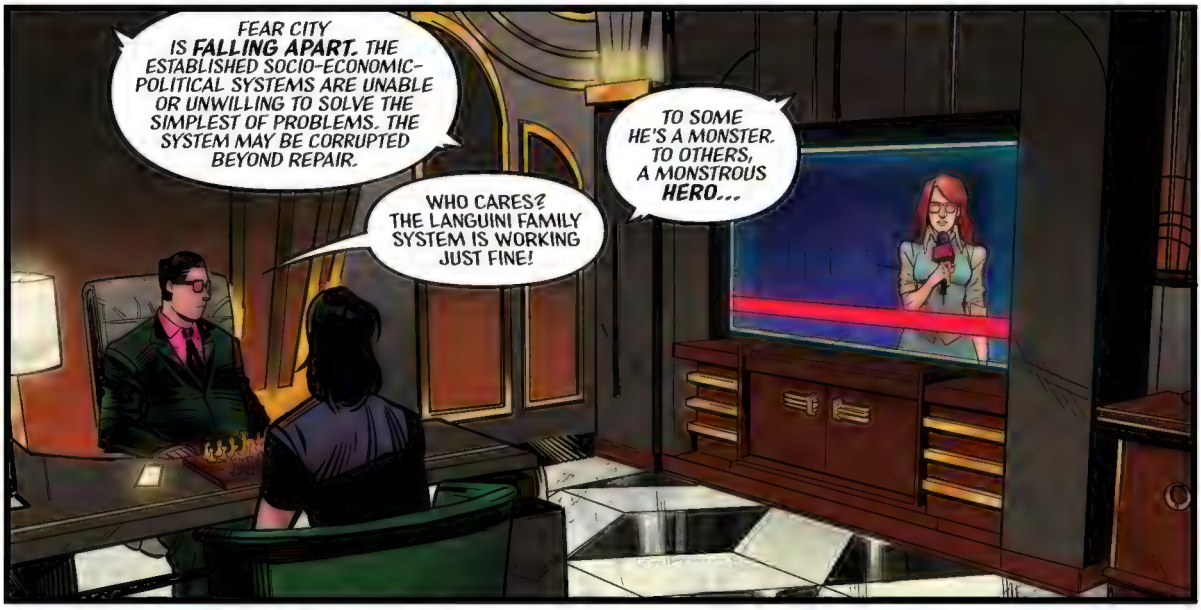
KA-KOOOMMM
THERE'S A KILLER ON THE ROOF, HA! IF YOU ONLY KNEW.
THEY SAY THAT MOST CRIME IS COMMITTED BY DUDES FROM THE AGES OF SIXTEEN TO THIRTY. YEAH, THERE'S A FEW SCHOOL SHOOTERS, STREET CRIMINALS, DRUG DEALERS, BUT THEY'RE JUST GOOFING OFF.
THE MOST MACHIAVELLIAN AND PSYCHOTIC CRIMINALS RUB SHOULDERS WITH TITANS OF COMMERCE. HYPOCRITICAL POLITICIANS ARE COSSETED BY JUDGES WHO CHERRY-PICK LEGAL PRECEDENTS TO FAVOR AND PROTECT THEM.
THESE LEADERS USED TO BE THE SCHOOL BULLIES. NOW THEY'RE FULLY GROWN, GORGED MANBABIES, CRAVING THE LOVE THEIR PARENTS COULDN'T GIVE THEM. NOW THEY'RE IN CONTROL.
THESE CRIMINALS WORK AND PLAY IN PENTHOUSES.
JUST LIKE MY FATHER'S...THE ONE I JUST BLEW UP.
WOW! THUMPER IS MAKING ME SOUND LIKE A SOCIAL ACTIVIST! THAT, OR MY THERAPIST IS FINALLY GETTING THROUGH TO ME.
POLICE
MAYBE NOW I STAND THE CHANCE OF GETTING A GIRLFRIEND.


WE HAVE TO START THINKING OF YOUR FUTURE, SON.
COLLEGE?
CONTINUING THE FAMILY LEGACY OF DOMINATION, YOU DUMB FUCK!
DOMINATION, INDEED. I'LL ALIGN MYSELF WITH THUMPER AND TOGETHER WE'LL DOMINATE THE CITY. WITHOUT ME, THUMPER WOULD KILL INDISCRIMINATELY. I NEED TO BE STRATEGIC AND DIRECT HIS URGES TOWARDS ANNIHILATING ALL THE MAJOR SCUM...
...AND MY DAD.

THAT WOULD BE GREAT.
HEY, SHOW SOME ENTHUSIASM, SOME GRATITUDE! WHAT HAVE I WORKED FOR ALL MY LIFE? I TELL YOU, THIS GENERATION...
YOU MADE ME WHO I AM.
STILL A FUCKING WORK IN PROGRESS, OBVIOUSLY.
IT'S NOT THAT COMPLICATED. THE LANGUINI FAMILY IS A MACHINE THAT RUNS ITSELF. WE HAVE THE BEST ACCOUNTANTS, BEST SOLDATA, THE BEST ADMINISTRATION.

WHAT ABOUT THE UNDERBOSS, SALVATORE MALATONI?
MALATONI IS A COCKSUCKER, A SNITCH.
I KINDA LIKE HIM.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KILL HIM TO PROTECT YOUR PLACE, BUT KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN. CAPICHE?


HI, I'M FELICITY FORKE, HERE TO DISCUSS THE CULTURAL IMPACT THAT THUMPER, THE RABBIT-MASKED VIGILANTE, IS HAVING ON CRIME.
THAT FURRY FREAK BLEW UP MY PENTHOUSE...AND MY DOORMAN! I LOVED THAT PLACE!
IS HE TRYING TO PROVOKE A TURF WAR? OR DO HIS CRIMES SUGGEST SOMETHING THAT HAS MUCH DEEPER IMPLICATIONS?


FEAR CITY IS FALLING APART. THE ESTABLISHED SOCIO-ECONOMIC-POLITICAL SYSTEMS ARE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO SOLVE THE SIMPLEST OF PROBLEMS. THE SYSTEM MAY BE CORRUPTED BEYOND REPAIR.
WHO CARES? THE LANGUINI FAMILY SYSTEM IS WORKING JUST FINE!
TO SOME HE'S A MONSTER. TO OTHERS, A MONSTROUS HERO...

CHECK.
YOUR PENTHOUSE WAS ANNIHILATED, AND YOU LOST FACE, DAD!

YEAH, WELL, THIS LITTLE RABBIT FUCK IS GOING TO LOSE MORE THAN HIS FACE! I'M GOING TO BE MAKING MINCEMEAT WITH HIS FACE, HIS FEET, HIS FUCKIN BABY FINGERS, TEETH, EYEBALLS, ALL OF HIM!
THEN I'LL TAKE A VISIT TO HIS HAIRY-BITCH MOM AND FEED HER SOME DELICIOUS RABBIT BOLOGNESE AND A SIDE OF SAUSAGE MADE FROM HIS TINY, MINCED-RABBIT COCK!
BZZT BZZT

BARB BARDOT
THE PENTHOUSE!? GONE! I HATE THAT RABBIT! WHEN AM I GOING TO SEE YOU, BABES?

I'm gonna kill that fucking rodent
YOUR MOVE, DAD.
I SAW THE TEXT AND KNEW IMMEDIATELY. IT WASN'T JUST HIS PENTHOUSE I'D DESTROYED, I'D BLOWN UP HIS TRYSTING NEST. THAT SHIT'S PERSONAL. OOPS.

THE FEAR CITY MAYOR, BARB BARDOT, WASN'T HIS ONLY SIDE DISH, DETECTIVE HELEN HELINSKI WAS ANOTHER. BUT THESE LADIES WERE A DAY AT THE OFFICE--THEY WERE WORK.

CHECKMATE, DAD.
TAK

PRECINCT 22. FEAR CITY. 9:15 A.M.
The office of Detective Helen "Hell" Helinski. Currently joined by her partner Detective Sophia Heaven. (Well, at least she brought coffee!)
HELINSKI, YOU'VE BEEN IN BED WITH PEPITO LANGUINI FOR TEN YEARS, LITERALLY, AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOT AN INDICTMENT. I DON'T GET IT.
WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU WAITING FOR? MENOPAUSE?
SOPHIA, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE A GRASP ON THE LEGAL SYSTEM, DO YOU?
UH...BULLSHIT. MAYBE NOT THE HELINSKI VERSION OF A LEGAL SYSTEM. I'M JUST SAYING PEPITO LANGUINI HAS THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM BY THE BALLS.
DIVIDE AND CONQUER. WE ROLLED UP THE CONTIS WITH THE INFORMATION LANGUINI GAVE US. HE'S BEEN USEFUL. I'M SQUEEZING HIM FOR EVERY DROP.
LET ME TEACH YOU SOMETHING, MISS-FRESH-OUT-OF-THE-ACADEMY-PLAY-IT-BY-THE-BOOK-KNOW-FUCK-ALL-SOPHIA-FIRST-IN-LINE-AT-THE-GATES-OF-HEAVEN, WE HAVE TO PACE THIS--THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE AN IRONCLAD CASE!
I SEE. UNDERSTOOD. UHH...TELL ME, DETECTIVE, AT WHAT POINT IN A COP'S CAREER DOES EXPERIENCE CROSS OVER INTO JADED?
YOU'LL FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF AT SOME POINT, DETECTIVE-LITE. DO US BOTH A FAVOR, AND TAKE EVERYTHING YOU LEARNED AT THE ACADEMY, ALONG WITH THE POLE THAT'S SHOVED FIRMLY UP YOUR ASS, AND DUMP IT IN YOUR NEW WEST ELM KITCHEN-BIN. I GET IT, FEAR CITY JUSTICE IS AN OXYMORON.
MORON-- YEAH, THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT...

HELL IS HELEN HELINSKI PRETENDING TO DO HER JOB.
TELLING THE TRUTH WHILE SHE LIES. THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD SUPERPOWER. WHEN IT WORKS, THAT IS...
"SCUM FLOATS TO THE SURFACE FASTER THAN CREAM RISES TO THE TOP"
VOTE FOR BARB
HEY!
I'M TALKING TO YOU, YOU FUCKING--
TOO SLOW. HE'S GOING TO HIT HER.

OOOMPF-
BLECH!
THE NEXT STOP
KA-
THUDD

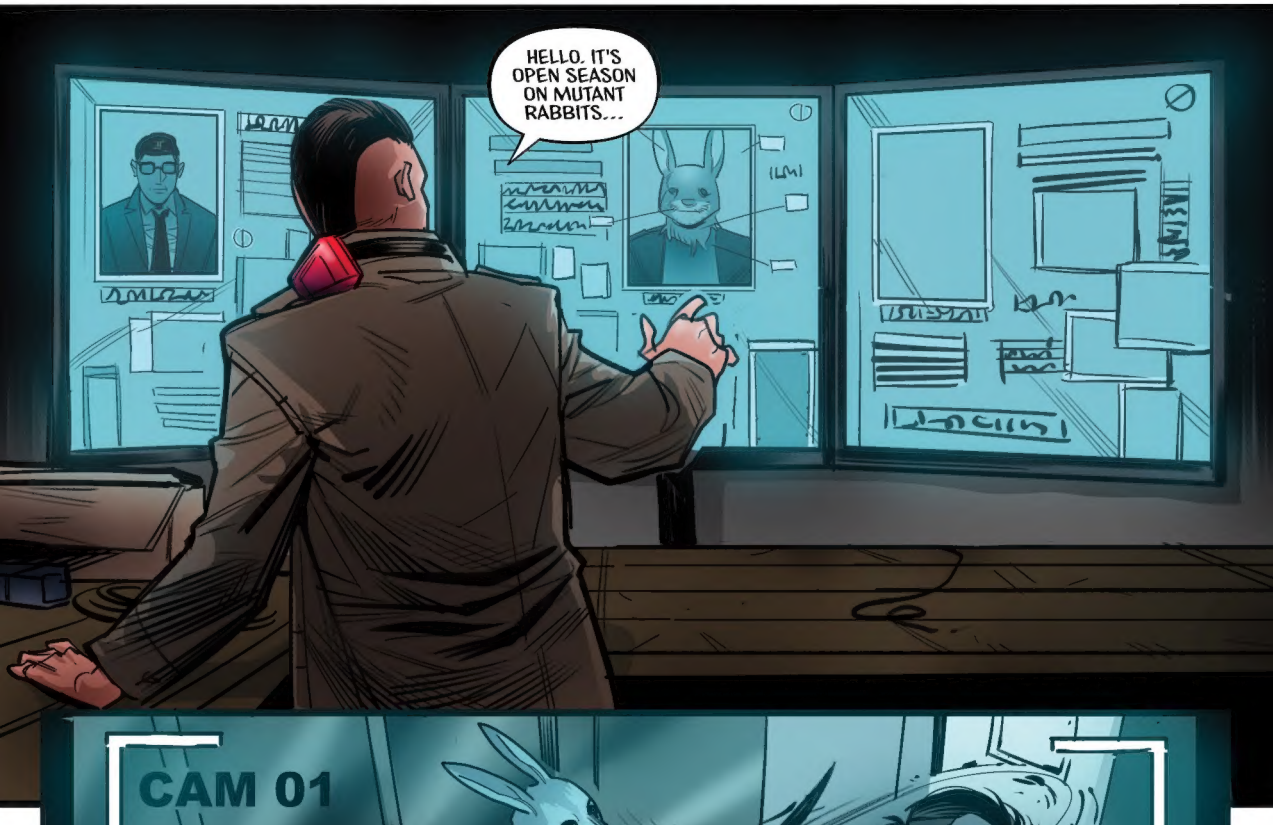
YOU'RE QUICK.
I FROZE. SOMETIMES I'M EMBARRASSED TO SAY I'M A COP. THANKS FOR BEING A STEP AHEAD.
NO PROBLEM.
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.
HEY, CAN I GET YOUR NUMBER?
SURE, MY NUMBER'S 22, PRECINCT 22. 74TH AND 3RD.
HA. I'M KAI BY THE WAY. MY FRIENDS CALL ME SHADOWKAI.
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. YOU'RE KAI CHEUNG, LEADER OF THE LEGENDARY SHADOW-SNAKES.
WOW! I GUESS I MUST BE FAMOUS.
WHAT ABOUT DINNER? ANY CHANCE WE CAN GO FOR DINNER SOMETIME?
NAH, I DON'T DATE GANG MEMBERS. A COP DATING A GANG BANGER--IS THAT EVEN LEGAL? CALL ME NEXT TIME YOU GET BUSTED, AND I'LL BUY US BURGERS TO EAT WHILE I INTERROGATE YOU.
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, MR. CHEUNG.
OH, AND BY THE WAY... I ONLY DATE COPS.

JUST FOLLOWING THE MONEY. IT'S BECOME AS ROUTINE AS **WALKING THE DOG.**

YEEARGH!
AAAAEEEI!!
SCHICKTT

IN A WAY, I HAVE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE JOB: I ONLY KILL **CRIMINALS,** WHO WILL NEVER BE AN ENDANGERED SPECIES. AND PUTTING THEM SIX FEET UNDER HELPS **FERTILIZE** THE **SOIL.**

OF COURSE, WHILE I WAS DEMONSTRATING HOW CRIMINALS CAN BENEFIT THE "GARDEN OF SOCIETY," MY DAD HAD REACHED A BOILING POINT. THUMPER WAS BECOMING MORE THAN AN EMBARRASSING THORN IN HIS SIDE.


HELLO. IT'S OPEN SEASON ON MUTANT RABBITS...

CAM 01
YOU'RE FREE TO BRING A SWORD TO A FIREFIGHT, THUMPER. BE MY FUCKING GUEST.
BUT DON'T COMPLAIN IF I DON'T PLAY BY ANY RULES.
L - 0012
G - 0014
23:13:11:12

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